

Introduced by Senator SotoDecember 5, 2002

An act relating to water quality.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 34, as introduced, Soto. Inland Empire Water Quality Authority.

Existing law establishes the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority to take measures to improve the quality of groundwater in the San Gabriel Basin.

This bill would enact the Inland Empire Water Quality Authority Act. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to establish the Inland Empire Water Quality Authority. The bill would make a related statement of legislative findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Parts of the Inland Empire are very dependent on
4 groundwater to supply the residents and businesses of the area, but
5 serious levels of industrial contaminants are putting that water
6 supply at great risk. Some areas have access to supplemental water
7 supplies from the Colorado River or the State Water Project, but
8 other areas are entirely dependent on groundwater.

9 (b) In the West San Bernardino County area, 22 wells have been
10 closed, or their use severely restricted, because of perchlorate



1 contamination. Perchlorate has also affected wells in the Redlands,
2 Loma Linda, and Glen Avon areas. Volatile organic compounds
3 (VOCs) have also been detected in some locations.

4 (c) The problems of contamination by perchlorate and other
5 contaminants often cross multiple jurisdictional boundaries. This
6 can cause confusion and slow the pace of cleanup.

7 (d) There are a variety of state, county, and municipal agencies
8 with overlapping jurisdiction and responsibility for guarding and
9 improving water quality. These agencies include the State
10 Department of Health Services, State Water Resources Control
11 Board, California regional water quality control boards, Chino
12 Basin Watermaster, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, San
13 Bernardino County Health Department, and each local retail water
14 agency.

15 (e) Strong and consistent local management is needed to
16 protect and enhance water quality, ensure protection of the
17 beneficial uses of the groundwater and promote and foster the
18 cleanup of this vital and valuable resource.

19 SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature to establish the Inland
20 Empire Water Quality Authority in order to protect public health
21 and safety by planning and implementing measures to clean up
22 industrial contaminants, particularly perchlorate, that now
23 threaten the region's groundwater supplies.

24 SEC. 3. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
25 Inland Empire Water Quality Authority Act. It is intended to
26 supplement the Water Code and reads as follows:

27
28 TITLE 1. INLAND EMPIRE WATER QUALITY
29 AUTHORITY ACT

30
31 PART 1. INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

32
33 CHAPTER 1. SHORT TITLE

34
35 Sec. 101. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
36 Inland Empire Water Quality Authority Act.

